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G.R.S. IX—5]

Previous references.

1923.

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File No. 21-22

Serial Nos. 15

Later references.

Reserve

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. One

Part B for December 23

SUBJECT

Forwards the views of the members re - the Constitutional Reforms in Mysore.

File

9/E

Printed on the Multigraph.

31.12.23

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Ref File No. 21 of 1922

Serial No. 15

From

The President
Mysore Prajamitra Mandale,
Bangalore.

No Nil. Dated 7.7.1923.

Forwards the views of the members of the members of the Mandali re- the Constitutional Reforms in Mysore.

A summary of the representation is put up as instructed

10/7/23.

10/7 directed

12/7/23

A typed summary is put-up with remarks

Ch. Secy.

19/7

Secy. Sec

23/7

23/7

Note 23/7

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

DIARY No 4241

Ref. 21-22 Bangalore, Dated 15 July 1923.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT 0 JUL 1923 GENERAL BRANCH

From

The P r e s i d e n t,

Mysore Prajamitra Mandali,

Bangalore.

To

K. Matthan Esquire B.A.,

Chief Secretary to the Government

of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,

B a n g a l o r e.

Sir,

With reference to the Government Order No.3996-4045 C.B.103-22 dated 9-1-1923 publishing the Report of the Committee on the constitutional developments in Mysore and inviting the opinion of the public on the recommendations of the Committee, I beg to place before you the following views of the members of the Prajamitra Mandali for the sympathetic consideration of Government.

2. The Mandali is deeply grateful to His Highness the Maharaja, our beloved sovereign, for the great democratic step His Highness has graciously decided to take in order to associate His Highness's subjects more largely with the administration of the State by giving the Representative Assembly a definite place in the constitution and by enlarging the scope and functions of the Legislative Council.

3. We have carefully considered the proposals made by the Committee in this behalf and while we agree that many of

the recommendations are conceived in a liberal spirit and are offered in the best interests of the people, we cannot ignore the fact that in the matter of the adequate representation of the various backward communities in those two bodies the remedies suggested by the Committee do not go far enough to level up the existing inequalities and to give a chance for all communities alike to secure a place in them. We, as representing the backward classes of His Highness's subjects, who form no less than 97% of the entire population of the State and being deeply interested in the promotion of their legitimate aspirations, are naturally much concerned with those portions of the Committee's recommendations that deal with the larger representation of backward communities in the two Bodies, and we therefore propose to examine this subject in some detail and to suggest suitable remedies for the kind acceptance of Government.

4. It is well-known that the existing constitution of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council has not helped to secure an effective and adequate representation of the backward classes of His Highness's subjects. The extraordinary efforts made by them in recent years to secure seats there have proved unstable, and unless suitable safeguards are created in the new constitution, there is no chance of these communities ever obtaining an effective hearing which alone is the essential factor that counts for working out their intellectual progress, social and economic uplift and political advancement.

5. The Mandali therefore earnestly desires that special facilities should be afforded to the backward classes untramelled by too many constitutional checks, so that all

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classes who are politically and educationally backward, such as those whom we represent, may be adequately represented in all public bodies of the State. Such facilities, it need hardly be added, will go a long way to-wards awakening their political consciousness and help them to shake off unhealthy influences to which they are at present so easily susceptible. If the Representiative Assembly is to be-come, as stated in the Report, " a sufficiently larger and comprehensive body having the character of the Conference of the delegates of the whole people comprising all the adult active citizens of the State", it is obvious that special facilities should be created for them, and unless this is done, it cannot possibly become " a living organ for direct consultation of the authentic voice of the people".

6. Coming now to particulars, we find from the Report that the strength of the Representative Assembly has been fixed at 250 seats of which 163 seats have been allotted to rural constituencies, 37 Urban constituencies, 15 to special interests and 35 to minorities, 25 of the latter being filled up by appointments from Associations and 10 by nominations. But in all this distribution no provision at all has been made for the reservation of seats to the Representatives of the Backward communities, as has been done in Madras. This we consider, is a serious drawback that ought to be remedied. We therefore propose that out of the 163 seats allotted to rural constituencies, at least one seat in each of the plural number constituencies may be reserved for the members of the backward communities. Similarly, out of 37 seats allotted to urban areas, at least four, Viz., two for each of the City Municipal areas of Bangalore and Mysore, should be reserved.

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This gives a total reservation of 73 seats, i.e.36½% of the total number of seats (163 plus 37 =200), which is less than the number allotted in the Madras Legislative Council, where the percentage of reserved seats is 43. The candidates to these reserved seats may, however, be elected by the general electorate. If in the opinion of the Government it is deemed necessary to reserve some seats for the Brahmin community as well, with a view to give chances to all communities alike, such number of seats as are necessary in consideration of their numerical strength may be allotted to them. We consider that it is also necessary to reserve a sufficient number of seats to Mahomedans,Christians and depressed classes by raising the total number of the Assembly to 280.

7. As regards the representation of Special Interests in the Assembly to which 15 seats have been allotted, we do not see why communal Associations have been excluded from the list. It is well known that communities are divided in accordance with their traditional occupations, and that it is due to their different professions that they are divided into their different castes. We are of opinion therefore that, if profession is the main consideration for the representation of special interests, the major backward communities like the Vokkaligars,Lingayets,Kurubars etc., who are primarily agriculturists, and some of whom are merchants and tradesman, should be representaed in this group through their resppctive associations which have been organized to promote the interests of these communities. That members of these communities will be returned by the general electorate is not a sufficient reason to exclude them from representations under "Special Interests". For the matter of that, an Inamdar, a Planter, a Graduate of

the Mysore University, an Advocate, or a member of the Chamber of Commerce is likely to be elected by the general electorate and since he is not debarred from being elected under " Special Interests" by reason of this chance, it is not clear why a Vokkaligar, a Lingayet, or a Kurbar should be excluded therefrom under similar circumstances. We would therefore urge for the Representation, under Special Interests, of the different communities, who generally follow one main profession and who are working for their political, social, educational and economic uplift by means of communal Associations. The Representatives elected by such Associations will carry the mandate of the members of their respective communities and will indirectly help in the awakening of their political consciousness.

8. We are not in agreement with the majority of the members of the Committee in their views regarding the representation of the Minorities. We agree with Messrs. Chandy, Matthan, Ramaswamy Chetty and Abbas Khan that in the present undeveloped condition of the backward communities in the State the Associations should not be fettered with constitutional rigidity but should be allowed a reasonable degree of latitude till they are able to face strict constitutional formalities in due time. The number of seats reserved for them is inadequate and the theories propounded for minority representation are such that they are likely to exclude the major backward communities such as Vokkaligars, Lingayets, and Kurubars from representation through their respective Associations under the assumption that they will secure adequate representation by election by the general electorates. We therefore urge that

the number of seats reserved be raised to 50, and that every community be given a seat without exception. As according to the latest Census classification, there are not more than 35 communities, provision can easily be made for the representation of all of them in this group. The clause (number 4 on page 123 of the Report) containing the implication of exclusion of the major backward communities may be eliminated and the resolution of the Committee requiring the presence of the 25% of the total number of members of the Associations or 50 members, whichever is less for election of a single candidate, may also be rescinded, fixing as at present, 25 as the minimum number of members to form a quorum for election irrespective of the number of members of the Associations.

9. With reference to the other points of details the Mandali begs to suggest that the existing property qualification of voters and candidates to the Legislative Council be reduced by 50% in accordance with the declared policy of the Government in this respect; that, in order to prevent the exercise of undue influence on non-official voters, Government servants other than Patels and Shanbogues, be prohibited from voting for candidates to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council, just as in case of election of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the District and Local Boards, as they have already been rightly prohibited from voting at present; that the restriction that only those who pay an income tax of Rs.100/- and more are eligible to vote for returning the members allotted for Banks and merchants be removed, so as to permit all who pay ~~the~~ income tax to vote; and that the Representative Assembly be allowed to elect 12 members to the Legislative Council instead of 8, as recommended by the Committee.

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10. In conclusion,we venture to hope that the foregoing suggestions which represent the considered views of the Praja Mitra Mandali will be kindly adopted. The adoption of these suggestions will, in the words of the members of the Reform Committee, surely " Stimulate a healthy communal activity for Social service and welfare work and will be a force for the political education of the backward electorates without which all extension of popular Government will not only be a delusion but also a snare".

I have the honor to be,

S i r,

Your most obedient servant,

H Kemparaja.

P r e s i d e n t,
Mysore Prajamitra Mandali.

Representation from the President, Mysore Prajamitra Mandali

Summary of representation :	Remarks .	Order of Government
1) Suggests the raising of the strength of the Assembly to 280.	This has been practically done since the maximum strength is 275	
2) Suggests the reservation of 73 seats to the backward Communities.	35 reserved in addn. to the results of general elections.	
3) Suggests the reservation of necessary seats to Mahomedans, Christians, depressed classes and Brahmins.	Except Brahmins, the other communities have had seats reserved for them.	
4) Suggests the increase of seats to be allotted to Minority Associations to 50.	35 is sufficient out of a total of 250.	
5) Suggests that it will be enough if 25 Members of the "Minority Associations" are present at a Meeting to elect a Member from among them.	Under consideration.	
6) Suggests the inclusion of major backward Communities, such as, the Vokkaligas, the Lingayats and the Kurubars in the list of persons eligible for representation from the "Special interests".	These are (were) communities not special interests.	
7) They are in favour of the reserved seats being returned through the general electorate.	This System has ~~been~~ deliberately ~~abandoned~~ ## This was not approved by the Com. of Govt. have agreed with the Com.	

Summary of representation.

8) Suggests the removal of the implied inclusion of the major backward communities contained in clause 4, page 123 of the Committee report.

9) Suggests that all government servants except Pilots and Shanbogues, should be prohibited from voting.

10) Suggests the increase of elected members from the R.A. to L.C from 8 to 12.

11) Suggests the reduction of property qualifications by 50% in the case of voters and Candidates to the L.C.

12) Suggests the omission of restriction, (viz) payment of an income-tax of Rs 100/- in the case of voters and Candidates allotted for Banks and Merchants.

CB
9/7/23.

Remarks.

There is no exclusion – Minority Communities in the State feel that the com. does not get adequate representation.

Proposed Clause by Govt. work

The present variation is from 4 to 8 which is substantial

Work done

No Constituency of Banking & Merchants.

by Sir Maurice
RR
12/7.

order of Government

REPRESENTATION FROM THE PRESIDENT MYSORE PRAJAMITRA MANDALI.

Summary of representation.	R e m a r k s.	Order of Government.
1. Suggests the raising of the strength of the Assembly to 280.	This has been practically done since the maximum strength is 275.	
2. Suggests ~~to~~ the reservation of 73 seats to the backward communities.	35 reserved in addition to the results of general elections.	
3. Suggests the reservation of necessary seats to Mahomedans, Christians, depressed classes and Brahmins.	Except Brahmins, the other communities have had seats reserved for them.	
4. Suggests the increase of seats to be allotted for Minority Associations to 50.	35 is sufficient out of a total of 250.	
5. Suggests that it will be enough if 25 members of the "Minority Associations" are present at a meeting to elect a member from among them.	Under Consideration.	
6. Suggests the inclusion of major backward communities, such as, the Vokkaligars the Lingayats and the Kurubars in the list of persons eligible for representation from the "Special Interests".	These come under communities and not Special Interests.	
7. They are in favour of the reserved seats being returned through the general electorate.	This was not approved by the Committee and Government have agreed with the Committee.	
8. Suggests the removal of the implied inclusion of the major backward communities contained in clause 4, page 123 of the Committee's Report.	There is no exclusion --- Minority Community is used in the sense that the Community does not get adequate representation.	
9. Suggests that all Government servants except ---- Patels and Shanbhogues, should be prohibited from voting.	Proposed that they should vote. — Under Consideration.	
10. Suggests the increase of elected members from the Representative Assembly to Legislative Council from 8 to 12.	The present increase is from 4 to 8 which is substantial.	
11. Suggests the reduction of property qualifications by 50% in the case of voters and candidates to the Legislative Council.	Has been done.	
12. Suggests the omission of resolution, (viz.) payment of an income-tax of Rs.100/- in the case of voters and candidates allotted for Banks and Merchants.	No constituency of Bankers and Merchants.	

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19/7

CB
19/7/23

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